



# State of Connecticut

## SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**SENATOR ANDREW J. McDONALD**  
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER  
TWENTY SEVENTH DISTRICT

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**MEMBER**  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

July 27, 2009

Governor M. Jodi Rell  
State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Rell:

As you know, members of Stamford's legislative delegation have strongly urged your administration to continue funding operations at Wright Technical High School, at least until a final budget is adopted when this issue, among others, could be fully debated by the legislature.

The State of Connecticut apparently has never closed a technical school in its history, according to officials from the state Board of Education. Doing so now would be an unprecedented change in Connecticut's educational priorities. I respectfully suggest that such a significant and defining decision should not be made by the Executive Branch alone, especially since the General Assembly just last month voted to include the school in its budget proposal that you vetoed.

This is not a matter that should be resolved in a vacuum. There are hundreds of students whose educational future is at stake. Indeed, it is possible that many of the students at Wright Tech would not fare well in another high school setting, and could result in them abandoning high school altogether. On their behalf, I strongly urge you to not disrupt the progress of their education.

In the event, however, that you decide to close the doors of Wright Tech, please let me know what steps your administration plans on taking to insure these students will have

another technical high school opportunity available to them. I have read news accounts about how your administration has undertaken efforts to transfer teachers and other staff from Wright Tech. It seems only appropriate, therefore, that we have an equally clear understanding of where the administration intends to send the students it had pledged to serve. In the event that you cannot guarantee these students will have a place in another state technical high school, please provide me with a copy of any and all communications sent to the Stamford Public Schools informing them of how many students the state will be returning to the local school system for the upcoming school year.

Wright Tech is an important part of Stamford's educational bulwark. Before you decide its fate, I ask you to consider your other options and, at a minimum, to arrange alternative educational opportunities for these students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew J. McDonald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" and last name "McDonald" clearly legible.

Andrew J. McDonald  
State Senator

cc: Lt. Gov. Michael Fedele  
Stamford Legislative Delegation  
Members, Stamford Board of Education  
Dr. Joshua Starr, Superintendent of Schools